

Claims

1. A load carrier for transporting logging residues, comprising
  - a horizontal frame, and
  - 5 - a rack mounted on the frame and including a rack bottom and a pair of upstanding rack side members mounted on the rack bottom along respective opposite sides of the rack bottom to form together with the rack bottom an upwardly open load space for accommodating a load of logging residues, wherein
  - 10 - an upstanding rack support is provided on the frame along a longitudinal side of the frame,
  - an upper end of one of the rack side members is connected to the top end of the rack support, and
  - the rack is pivotable relative to the rack support and the frame
  - 15 through an angle greater than 90 degrees about a horizontal axis between a lower load-accommodating position with the rack bottom resting on the frame and a position for gravity dumping of a load of logging residues held in the rack onto the ground by the side of the load carrier.
- 20 2. A load carrier as claimed in claim 1 including at least one hydraulic actuator operatively connected between the frame and said one rack side member to pivot the rack about said horizontal axis between the load-accommodating and load-dumping positions.
- 25 3. A load carrier as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the rack support is tiltable relative to the frame about a horizontal axis between a load-accommodating position, in which it is tilted away from the other rack side member, and a load compacting position, in which it is tilted towards the other rack side member, at least one hydraulic actuator being
- 30 operatively connected between the frame and the rack support to effect said tilting of the rack support, and wherein both rack side members are tiltable relative to the rack bottom about respective horizontal axes

between a load-accommodating position, in which each rack side member is tilted away from the other rack side member so that the rack side members diverge upwardly, and a load compacting position, in which each rack side member is tilted towards the other rack side member so  
5 that the rack side members converge upwardly, a hydraulic actuator being operatively connected between each rack side member and the rack bottom to effect said tilting of the side members.

4. A load carrier as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, including a  
10 wheeled chassis supporting said frame of the rack.

5. A load carrier as claimed in claim 4, including a knuckle boom crane supporting a feller head having a gripping mechanism for gripping and holding trees.  
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6. A machine for forwarding logging residues from a cutting site to a landing, comprising  
- a forwarder vehicle,  
- a rack mounted on the forwarder vehicle and including a rack bottom  
20 and a pair of upstanding rack side members mounted on the rack bottom along respective opposite sides of the rack bottom to form together with the rack bottom an upwardly open load space for accommodating a load of logging residues, and  
- a load handling device associated with the load carrier vehicle and in-  
25 cluding a tree gripping mechanism for gripping a tree, moving it to a position above the rack and releasing it into the load space, wherein the gripper mechanism is combined with a felling head, whereby a cut tree can be transferred directly from the stump to the load space of the rack.

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7. A machine according to claim 6 wherein the feller head is a tree accumulating feller head.

8. A machine according to claim 6 or 7 wherein the rack is a rack according to any one of claims 1 to 5.